

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A printing method, comprising the steps of:  
receiving data at a printer;  
determining whether a URL or external network option is  
5 enabled;  
detecting if a network address in the received data;  
sending on the Internet or other network an access request  
for a document to the network address;  
retrieving the document from the network address; and  
10 printing the document.
2. The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the external network  
address is a URL.
3. The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the detecting a  
network address step comprises detecting a barcode in the received data  
15 and translating the barcode to the network address.
4. The method as defined in claim 3, wherein, if the URL or other  
external access option is not enabled, then printing the untranslated  
barcode.
5. The method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of  
20 enabling/disabling the URL or external network access option.
6. The method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of  
presenting a display to a user or control entity to enable/disable the URL  
or external network access option.
7. The method as defined in claim 6, wherein the display is  
25 provided from a printer driver.

8. The method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of enabling/disabling the URL or external network access option from a control panel.

5 9. The method as defined in claim 8, wherein the control panel is at the printer.

10. The method as defined in claim 8, wherein the control panel is at a remote administrator location.

10 11. The method as defined in claim 10, further comprising the step of sending of a user name or password to the remote administrator location.

12. The method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of automatically enabling/disabling the URL or external network access option based on a criteria.

15 13. The method as defined in claim 12, wherein the criteria is whether the URL or external network device meets a security requirement.

14. The method as defined in claim 13, wherein the security requirement is the receipt of an authorized user name and/or password.

20 15. The method as defined in claim 1, wherein said receiving data step comprises receiving an e-mail containing said data.

16. The method as defined in claim 1, wherein said receiving data step comprises receiving an e-mail with an attachment containing said data.

25 17. The method as defined in claim 3, wherein said translating step

comprises translating the barcode to obtain a PIN#; and  
wherein said sending step includes sending the PIN# with the  
access request to the external network address for determining if the  
request is authorized.

5           18. The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the detecting a  
network address step comprises interpreting a wrapper indicating that the  
wrapped data is a barcode.

19. The method as defined in claim 3, wherein the translated  
barcode includes  
10           information on printing the document inside another  
document; and  
              further comprising the step of printing the document inside  
the other document in accordance with the printing information upon  
receipt of the document at the printer.

15           20. The method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the  
step of printing the document inside a master document.

21. The method as defined in claim 20, wherein the detecting of  
a network address step further comprises  
              obtaining at least one identifier that designates the type of  
20           contents in said document; and  
              determining a location of the document within the master  
document based on said identifier.

22. A program product including machine readable program code  
for causing a machine to carry out the following method steps:  
25           receiving data at a printer;  
              determining whether a URL or external network option is  
enabled;

detecting if a network address in the received data;  
sending on the Internet or other network an access request  
for a document to the network address;  
retrieving the document from the network address; and  
5 printing the document.

23. The program product as defined in claim 22, wherein  
program code for performing the detecting a network address step  
comprises program code for detecting a barcode in the received data and  
translating the barcode to the network address.

10 24. The program product as defined in claim 22, further  
comprising program code for performing the step of enabling/disabling the  
URL or external network access option.